1: Cunningham G-3 (1846-47) 1854 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4

III.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

692 The administration of justice in Ladák was truly patriarchal. When any one was injured or aggrieved, he proceeded straight to the *Gyalpo* or *Kahlon* of his district, or to the *Goba* of his village, and represented his case. An assembly of five, or of seven elders* of the community was then called to hear and to decide
692 upon the case. In the capital the proceedings were
694 conducted with the observance of more form. The complainant made his case known to the *Lonpo*, or mayor, who reported it to the *Kahlon*, or prime minister. The *Shakspon*, or chief justice, was then directed to assemble a regular court, composed either of five or of seven members, according to the importance of the case. The members were selected, as in the provinces, from amongst the *Gatpas*, or "elders;" but to them were joined two or more *Khrimpons*, or "sitting magistrates," whose duty it was to expound the *Yul-khrim*,†
695 that is, the "law of the land," or civil law. The *Shaks-*
696 *khang*,‡ or "court of justice," was opened and closed by the sounding of the *Khrim-dung*,§ or "trumpet of justice," and the sentence of the court (excepting in capital cases) was carried into execution without delay.

* *rGad-pa*, pronounced *Gatpa*, an "old man," an "elder." The number of members points to a common origin with the universal and still prevailing *Panchayet*, or "assembly of five," throughout India. Five must have been the ancient number, as even a single arbitrator or umpire is now called "*Panch*."

† *Yul-khrims*, "land-law." In Ladák this word is pronounced *Yul-khrim*, but in Great Tibet it is corrupted to *Yul-thim*.

‡ *Shags-khang*, "justice-hall."

§ *Khrims-dung*, "justice-trumpet;" there was also a *Khrims-rNga*, "justice-drum."

12: Douglas T-3 (1951)1953 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4

abolished primogeniture and decreed that on the death of the father any son could get a partition of the ancestral home and claim his fraction of it.

That was what Wangyal decided to do. He would prove to the elder brother and their wife that he could not be frozen out of his family life.

And so he went to see the Tehsildar. But that was only the beginning of his troubles. The pressure of the village is on the side of the maintenance of the family and against the breaking up of the estate. The influence of the lamas is behind polyandry. The Tehsildar told Wangyal to go see his lamas at Spitok. He walked the six miles and walked back. Weeks passed. Nothing happened. For months he was shuttled between the lamas of Spitok and the officials of Leh.

"If I had money, perhaps I could bribe someone to do me justice," he complained to me. "But I am penniless."

"What do you plan now?"

"Perhaps I can find work in Srinagar," he said sorrowfully.

Younger sons frequently rebel. Girls about to be married to a group of brothers sometimes defy the parental command. Choskyit, who lived at Basgo, a village below Leh on the Indus, defied her father. He ordered her to marry seven sons. She pleaded and begged and eventually refused. She left Basgo at night and fled to Leh. She was disowned and became an outlaw from her family. Later she became a Christian, converted by the Moravian missionaries at Leh. Her younger sister, however, obliged and married the seven brothers.

Such revolts as Choskyit's are not common. They seldom happen in the poorer families. But these days they happen more frequently among the upper classes. A few years back, a prominent Tibetan girl, educated abroad, married a boy in Lhasa. His mother insisted that the girl be the wife of the younger brother too. She flatly refused. The wrath of the family descended upon her. So she left and was gone five years. She would not return until a firm